

Gideon Lincecum Chapter  
Texas Master Naturalist  
March 18, 2017 Meeting  
Winedale

Vice President Karen Woods called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM in the absence of President Cindy Hobbs. There were 28 members present.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Betsy Palkowsky to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Lefty Arnold seconded it. All present voted in favor. The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Chris Morrison provided copies of her report to those in attendance. There were no questions concerning her report. It was accepted as presented. Dave Redden asked if he needed to remove the email addresses of the two class members, who dropped out, from his email list. Chris explained that they dropped out prior to the start of the class, so their names would not be included on the master list. VP Karen made mention that the tumblers mentioned in the Treasurer's report can be purchased at Buc-ees for a very reasonable price due to the litigation between Artic and Yeti.

Old Business:

Christmas Party: VP Karen Woods mentioned that she had some leftover items from the Christmas party.

Class curriculum books: Jerry Gips stated that he has 1 book left, does not know whom it belongs to, so if you purchased a book and don't have it, see Jerry.

Weather Station: It has arrived. Scott Willey at TPWD is the point of contact and will be in charge of set-up.

New Business:

Class Graduation: Jerry Gips stated that graduation would be Monday April 24 in La Grange. The program will be on Legal Ethics and the graduation party will follow.

Guest: VP Karen Woods introduced Diana Wilson, a landscape architect, a member of the Lions Club who is visiting us today.

Membership: VP Karen Woods thanked Carol Daniels, the previous membership chair, for all her hard work and mentioned that Leada Dietz is the new membership chair, but she is stuck in traffic and will give her report a little later.

Adopt-A-Highway date has been changed to April 5 due to the Antiques show.

Tom Scanio reported that he has the Styrofoam helmets for the greenhouse plantings.

Alternative School program: Lori Buffum needs 3 volunteers for the outreach program at the alternative school in Eagle Lake. She is planning to do a version of her bingo game to engage the students. The students are of junior/senior high school age.

Committee Reports:

Advanced training: VP Karen Woods reminded everyone about today's program on Birding and bird vocalization by Jane Tillman. May's program will be on Viruses by Cheryl Guenther and July may be on soil and precipitation, titled "Soil for Water".

Past President: Cindy Rodibaugh was not present. No report.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Training: Jerry Gips. This Monday's program will be on Entomology.

Membership: Leada Dietz. There were 2 new initial certifications: Theresa Rooney, and Sheri Wilcox. Also Jerry Gips 250 hours, Madeline Johnson 500 hours and Donna Mueller 1000 hours.

Newsletter: Lori Buffum. Running a little late this time. Deadline for inclusion is this Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. She announced that the new Webmaster is Sheri Wilcox.

Advanced Training: Dave Redden. Nothing additional to report at this time.

Outreach: Betsy Palkowsky Betsy is keeping a spreadsheet of the names of people interested in the chapter classes for next year. She is planning to keep in touch with these potential class members and provide them with information on chapter activities. Also, does anyone know where the large tri-fold display is, that was kept at the Washington county Agri-Life building? It is missing. Treasurer Chris Morrison reminded everyone that money has been allotted to purchase 2 more displays. Donna Mueller said they are currently on back order. Lefty and LuAn Arnold are setting up the tri-fold display later today at the County Wildlife Management meeting.

Safety Ag Day: Donna Mueller reported that we have the dates for Ag days: April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Fayette county fairgrounds, 8:30 AM.

She needs 3 volunteers for the lunch line.

May 10<sup>th</sup> in Washington County at the fairgrounds at 8:30 AM. Lefty and LuAn Arnold and Dave Redden will be doing the Ag Day program there.

May 16<sup>th</sup> in Austin County. This is the first time for Austin County.

May 16<sup>th</sup> in Colorado County.

She also needs a couple of spiders and some snakes for the program. She will post all the dates and information on the website and in the newsletter. Let her know if you can help out.

Scholarships: Donna Mueller. Candidates will be selected in late April/early May. We will need 2 representatives to attend each of the 5 county banquets, set up the tri-fold display, and do a short presentation. No dates have been established at this time. But they are usually held in May.

Hospitality: Nita Tiemann. Nothing to report. Just needs new coffee pots.

Adopt-A-Highway: Dave & Mary Ann Butler. Date has been rescheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Lutheran church in Reutersville at 8:30 AM.

Winedale Pollinator Garden Project: Patrick & Cathleen Dunne. Cathleen reported that the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is complete, and she is scheduled to meet with ATS Irrigation of Brenham today for an estimate. She also said some the plants were lost and will order more wholesale. There was considerable discussion on irrigation verses rainfall for the survival native plants; however the pollinator garden will also include some non- native plants.

Brenham ISD: Carol Paulson was not present, so VP Karen Woods gave her report. She reported that on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor classroom held on March 8 & 9 had 380 children attending over the 2 day period. They learned about GPS, the green building, fishing and simple machines . She is in need of volunteers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on March 28 and 30 at Nails Creek Park. The Brenham ISD has 4 or 5 outdoor classroom programs that all need volunteers. Lori Buffum also mentioned that the Lands program needs volunteers. Dave Redden explained about volunteering for the Lands program taking place in May. At this time all the volunteer slots are full.

Indian Creek: Judy Deaton. The park and the pollinator garden both look good. They are putting up 2 more bluebird boxes and are also trapping some stray cats. She also needs more displays for the Burton Cotton Gin Festival on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. So far she only has 2 people who have volunteered. Charlotte VonRosenberg suggested maybe a demonstration of the mulcher for the public. There was much discussion on this topic and Judy is aware of it.

Monument Hill: Karen Woods. They are almost done, only 2 more signs left to post - the coral berry and live oak. Should only require one more workday. She needs volunteers.

Washington on the Brazos: Karen & Allen Ginnard. Not present, but Cathy Nolte gave a brief report. The pollinator garden has been cleaned and plaques are being set up. Don't know what other plans they may have at this time.

Prairie Committee: Charlotte Von Rosenberg. The prairie committee is not dead, just dormant at this time. The New Landowners class has a segment on native grasses and people are very interested in them. It is a very labor-intensive process to grow these grasses, but very doable. We need to replenish our supply. Seed collection will take place in the Fall. In the past, Donna Mueller said she has passed out native grass seeds in little packets with instructions how to grow them. She suggested maybe doing this for the new class.

Other Business;

VP Karen had Carol Daniels explain the differences in the VMS system on how to report various group presentations, educational presentations, the Brenham ISD outdoor classrooms etc. A suggestion was made to have an article in the newsletter clarifying VMS reporting.

Attwater: Debbie Copeland-Luhn

A volunteer is needed to coordinate the volunteer activities at Attwater National Wildlife Refuge. The Attwater Boomin-N-Bloomin Festival will be April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be tours to see the males booming and volunteers may be needed. Go to [www.attwater.org](http://www.attwater.org) for more information or call 979-234-3021 X223, John Megura.

Karen Woods thanked everyone who responded to help her identify her Luna Moth photo.

A motion was made by Betsy Palkowsky. to adjourn the meeting. Donna Mueller seconded it. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Karr and Debbie Copeland